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FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 10th August, 1896. The president, Professor Baldwin Spencer, M.A., occupied the chair, and some 60 members and visitors were present.

REPORTS.

A report of the excursion to Sandringham on Saturday, 18th July, was read by the leader, Mr. C. French, jun., who stated that a fairly successful outing was experienced, the most notable plants found in flower being *Pterostylis vittata*, *P. longifolia*, and *Eriochilus autumnalis* (the usual flowering season of this orchid being April and May). The curious little plant, *Phylloglossum Drummondii*, was noted in fruit.

The hon. secretary read a report of the practical meeting held on Monday evening, 27th July, when Mr. J. Shephard gave a demonstration of botanical section cutting and staining to a fair attendance of members. Sections of stems of the Wattle, Sheoak, and other native plants were prepared and stained, attention being drawn to the interesting differential staining effects produced.

PAPERS.

1. By Mr. H. T. Tisdall, entitled "Under Eastern Baw-Baw."

The author gave an interesting account of a recent collecting trip in the Walkhalla district. His search was principally directed to the cryptogamic flora, and a large number of species of fungi were obtained. The paper was illustrated with coloured drawings by the author.

Some remarks on the paper were made by Messrs. J. G. Luehmann and D. Best.

2. By Mr. R. Hall, entitled "Box Hill Birds in July, 1896."

The author, in a series of interesting notes, dealt principally with the effect of an early spring on the avi-fauna of the district. Some reference was made to the question of the transitional changes of plumage in the male of the Superb Warbler (Blue Wren), *Malurus cyaneus*, Lath., and a series of skins obtained in different seasons during several years was exhibited.

The president, Messrs. C. Frost, A. Coles, G. Coghill, and others took part in the discussion which ensued.